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REPORT OF THE WAR HISTORY DEPARTMENT OF THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMISSION

Berkeley, California,
January 15, 1921.

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REPORT OF THE WAR HISTORY DEPARTMENT OF THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMISSION

This is a brief record of the War History Department, of the California Historical Survey Commission, its creation, purpose, method of procedure, and principal activities.

A report of the detailed achievements of the fifty-eight County War History Committees, which worked in conjunction with the State Department, cannot be included. Some of these committees were originally organized by the War History Committee of the State Council of Defense, while others received their authorization from the War History Department, and all rendered generous cooperation to that department.

CREATION OF WAR HISTORY DEPARTMENT:

The 1919 session of the California State Legislature passed a bill which became Chapter 430, laws of 1919, placing the compilation of California's war records under the jurisdiction of the California Historical Survey Commission. This work had been previously conducted by the War History Committee of the State Council of Defense with additional later support, after the disbandment of that Council, by the State Board of Control and the State Historical Survey Commission. In accordance with this legislation on August 5,

1919, the office of the War History Committee was transferred from Sacramento to Berkeley where it was placed under the direction of the secretary of the War History Department of the Historical Survey Commission.

The law passed by the State Legislature specified the functions assigned to the Historical Survey Commission, and conducted by the War History Department, as follows;

> "To prepare and compile for publication a record of California's part in the great war between the United States and the Central European Powers. It shall be the further duty of the said commission to prepare and compile for publication a book or books in which shall appear a brief biography, together with a picture or likeness if obtainable, of each citizen of the State of California who served in either the army, navy or marine corps of the United States of America at any time during said war."

PURPOSE OF THE WAR HISTORY DEPARTMENT:

The purpose of the War History Department, as above specified by the state legislature, has been to compile and prepare for publication the records of California's military and civilian activities in the war.

When the new State Library building at Sacramento has been constructed it is expected that there will be set apart a room to be known as California's Hall of Fame. Here the war history records will be preserved in lasting commemoration of those Californians who had a part in the World War, either at home in the civilian activities, or in the military or naval service of our country and its allies.

It has been the endeavor of the War History Department to cooperate with the county committees in the collection of material for the state archives, and to assist the counties to prepare for preservation in the county archives and for possible county publication, duplicate records of their war activities.

METHOD OF PROCEDURE:

In order to aid the County War History Committees in the compilation of their war records a pamphlet was issued by the War History Department, containing suggestions as to the organization of local committees, procedure after organization, collection of war service records, preparation of records of home activities, preservation of ephemeral war history material, and a detailed outline for use in the compilation of the war records. This outline divided the war history into fourteen main divisions, as follows;

1. Period Before America's Entrance in the War.
2. Military, Naval and Aviation Activities.
3. Agriculture and the Food Supply.
4. Industry and Labor.
5. Commerce, Transportation and Communication.
6. War Finance and Revenue.
7. Social, Welfare and Relief Agencies and work.
8. Education.
9. Religion in the War.
10. Professional Men and Women in War Work.
11. Women in the War.
12. War Legislation and Administration of Government.
13. Public Opinion and the War.
14. Post-War Period.

A copy of this pamphlet is attached hereto. (Exhibit No. 1.)

Since the creation of the War History Department all new appointments on the County War History Committees have been made by Governor William D. Stephens. The expenses of the county committees have been borne by the County Boards of Supervisors, and in some cases by popular subscription. In no case has it been possible for the War History Department to finance the activities of the county committees.

Bulletins and information circulars containing suggestions relative to the prosecution of the work, have been issued frequently by the War History Department to the county committees.

LIST OF CALIFORNIANS WHO DIED IN SERVICE:

The first piece of work of the War History Department, was the completion of the list of Californians who died in service during the war. This list, which was begun by the War History Committee of the State Council of Defense, was compiled chiefly from the daily report of the Commanding General of the American Expeditionary Forces, as it was published in the Official U. S. Bulletin, issued by the Committee on Public Information at Washington, D. C. Also a list of names and addresses of the nearest relatives of those who died was prepared by the War History Department; and these lists were submitted to the Adjutant General for use in the distribution, on Armistice Day, 1919,

by Governor William D. Stephens, and the Director of the State Council of Defense, of the Golden Scrolls to the families of those who made the supreme sacrifice. Shortly after Armistice Day, when the Scrolls began to be returned for better addresses and corrections in the names of those who died, it was discovered that many errors and ommissions had been made in the official list that emanated from Washington. It thus became necessary to re-check the list that had been compiled by the War History Department. A bulletin was immediately issued to the county committees asking their cooperation in securing the correct list of men who died, together with the date, place, and cause of death, and name and address of nearest relative. The county committees have worked painstakingly on this list, and from all but the most populous counties it has been possible to obtain the correct information. A preliminary list, containing 3, 397 names, was issued through the press of the state for the purpose of obtaining additions and corrections. The response from the public was most gratifying and it is now believed that the list, containing approximately 4,000 names, is as nearly correct and complete as it is possible to obtain; However the publication of the final list of Californians who died in service has been postponed until the final official list prepared by the Adjutant General of the Army, has been released, at which time a further check should be made of the list of Californians who died, before the same is published.

INDIVIDUAL WAR SERVICE RECORDS:

One of the most important features of the war history work has consisted of the collection of service records of our men and women who entered the military or naval service. The distribution and collection of the blanks provided for this purpose, have been conducted in the several counties by the local war history committees, the local posts of the American Legion, the schools, libraries, lodges, churches, women's clubs, local exemption boards, and other organizations and individuals. The local press has also rendered valuable cooperation to the War History Department in this connection.

On October 15th, 1919, an information circular was issued to the County War History Committees, requesting them to make special effort on Armistice Day, November 11, 1919, to obtain the service records. However, the results from some of the counties seemed not to be all that were desired, and again on April 17, 1920, an information circular was issued calling attention to the importance of the collection of service records. At that time it was suggested that the cooperation of the American Legion be enlisted in this phase of the work. Still many county committees encountered difficulty in obtaining the desired results, which seemed to be due in part to the form of service record blank which was used. This blank was prepared by the State Council of Defense before the termination of

hostilities seemed likely, and called for information of a more biographical nature than it was possible to obtain. A new blank was therefore prepared by the War History Department, a copy of which is attached to this report. (Exhibit No. 2)

The new style service record blank was later adopted by the National Headquarters of the American Legion, for use all over the United States in obtaining the desired information, when that organization assisted in the distribution of the Victory Medals. The Department of California of the American Legion at its second annual convention at San Diego, August 23 to 25, 1920, passed a resolution instructing the several posts of the Legion throughout the State of California to assist in the collection of the service records. Supplies of the blanks were furnished the two hundred thirty-nine local Posts throughout the state, and it is now believed that, with the cooperation of the American Legion in addition to the work of the county committees and other organizations, this phaze of the war history collection will be successfully completed.

PUBLICATION OF COUNTY WAR HISTORIES:

Various county committees in compiling their war history material, expressed a desire to have the same printed, and the War History Department was asked whether or not it was the intention of the state to publish the county histories. On January 12, 1920, an Information circular was issued by the War History Department, containing

a suggestion which had been made to that department that a bill be introduced into the 1921 session of the state legislature providing state cooperation with the counties in the cost of publishing their war histories, and requesting the opinion of the several county committees regarding the same. Later in May of the same year, a bulletin was issued containing information regarding the plans for county publication, and an estimate of the probable total cost to the counties. The opinion was held by the War History Department that the publication of the war activities of each county would be of tremendous interest in future years, since for state publication much that would be of vital interest to the county could not be included in the state resume of a particular county's war activities.

Many of the counties favored the publication of their war records and have proceeded to compile the material with this end in view. Several counties have already obtained the consent of their Boards of Supervisors to the appropriation of funds for the county publication; while other county committees have not favored the proposal of county publication if the state intends to publish a general history of California's war activities.

REPORTS OF WAR WORK OF STATE DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS:

On March 30, 1920 a bulletin was issued by the War History Department, to all state departments, boards, and commissions, requesting them to submit accurate and detailed

accounts of their war activities including war rosters of their members and employees. This request received generous response, and the records and reports that were submitted will make a valuable addition to California's war history.

LIST OF CALIFORNIANS WHO RECEIVED DECORATIONS FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE:

The preparation of a list of Californians who received decorations or citations for distinguished service during the war, has been another important feature of the work of the War History Department. The list was compiled chiefly from the files of the Official U. S. Bulletin, and statewide press clipping service.

On July 26, 1920, a preliminary list containing the names of 907 Californians who were cited or decorated for bravery or other conspicuous service, was issued through the press of the state. The decorations consisted principally of the American Congressional Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross; the English Victoria Cross, Distinguished Service Order, and the Companion of St. Michael and St. George; the French Legion d'Honneur, Croix de Guerre and Chevalier de l'ordre de la couronne; and the Belgian and Italian War Crosses. Many names have been added since the preliminary publication of the list, and it now contains approximately 1200 names, which confirms the theory that California stands foremost among the states in the display of heroism and valor on the field of battle and in the civilian war activities.

PUBLICITY:

The attention of the county war history committees has been directed frequently to the importance of obtaining the cooperation of the public in collecting the war history material; the suggestion was made that through the medium of the local press, wide publicity be given to the work, in order that the citizens of the state might know what was desired of them by the war history committees, and how they could respond to these desires. Press statements have been issued from time to time by the War History Department, and the newspapers throughout the state have accorded generous space to the work of that department and the county committees. The amount of cooperation received from the public through the use of publicity has entirely repayed the department for the small expenditure made in this connection.

COUNTY WAR HISTORY COLLECTIONS:

On November 16, 1920, a call was sent out to the county committees to submit at once to the War History Department, one copy of all war history material that had been collected or compiled during the biennial period. The records and reports began to come in immediately, and are still being received at this time.

PUBLICATION OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM D. STEPHENS' WAR ADDRESSES, PROCLAMATIONS, AND PATRIOTIC MESSAGES:

The final publication of the War History Department, owing to the exhaustion of its funds, is a pamphlet containing the War addresses, proclamations, and patriotic messages

of Governor William D. Stephens. This collection of papers which is now in the hands of the printer, contains valuable historical material, in that the various documents set forth not only the patriotic war service of California's Governor, but as well, the sentiments and activities of the people of California.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES:

The War History Department has prepared for publication in the 1919 Annual Report of the American Historical Association, an article dealing with the historical activities in California during the years 1917, 1918, and 1919; and a statement of the war history work in California during the years 1918-1920, to be read before the annual meeting of the National Association of State War History Organizations, in Washington D. C., on December 28, 1920.

The War History Department has received, classified, and indexed according to the war history outline contained in the attached pamphlet, (Exhibit 1), approximately 100,000 press clippings.

The department has also prepared a topical index of articles contained in the Official U.S. Bulletin, which will be of use to the historian for reference purposes.

A list of California authors, who have published articles or books dealing with any phase of the war activities, has been compiled from the various cumulative indeces. This list is not complete at the present time.

The secretary of the War History Department attended the conference of State War History Organizations in Washington,D.C., in September, 1919, where,representing the State of California, she signed the Constitution of the National Association of State War History Organizations.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The funds for the use of the War History Department of the California Historical Survey Commission were available under Section 2 of Chapter 430, Laws of 1919:

> Sec.2. Out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated there is hereby appropriated the sum of five thousand dollars to be expended by the California Historical Survey Commission in carrying out the duties imposed upon it by this act.

The funds provided in this Section of the Act were exhausted in July, 1920, and a deficiency resolution was passed, allowing the creation of a deficit not to exceed $2,500 for the completion of the work.

	SALARIES	TRAVEL	POST.	EXPRESS	TEL & TEL	PRINT.	PRESS CL	EMERG #
YR.1919	$1136.87	413.50	15.00	25.63	37.22	39.47	112.10	323.19
1920								
Jan.	203.00	39.70			.48		7.56	7.67
Feb.	283.00	41.00	3.00	1.67	5.94	6.59	3.30	1.15
March	289.00		10.00	1.83	5.80	20.46	2.74	16.02
April	251.00	18.10	3.11	2.98	4.07	2.02	3.08	2.00
May	287.00	43.15	6.00	1.62	2.50	5.15	3.62	8.25
June	325.00	10.60	10.00	3.53	6.08	73.84	1.70	4.60
July	381.11	39.95	14.50	.30	5.37	1.53	1.68	14.21
Aug.	377.26		1.26	3.08	6.93	9.75	7.68	5.30
Sept.	325.00	46.81	9.80	.32	10.05	46.21	2.56	14.00
Oct.	225.00	.46	24.60		4.30	5.25	5.36	3.50
Nov.	235.00			5.78	5.30	389.17	4.23	6.39
Dec.	260.00	68.66	5.00	7.64	3.80	500.00*	2.05	2.55
1921								
Jan.*	125.00*		15.00*	10.00*	10.00*	10.00*	4.00*	10.00**
TOTAL:	4,703.24	721.93	117.27	64.38	105.84	1109.44	161.66	409.03

*Estimated Espenditures. (Bills covering actual expenditures for these items have not yet been received.

#Items listed under the head Emergency cover purchases of supplies & office equipment, including typewriter rental.

WAR HISTORY DEPARTMENT.
Genevieve Ambrose.